

Message Text

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73

ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CAB-09 CIAE-00 COME-00 DODE-00 DOTE-00

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FM AMEMBASSY LONDON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2057

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ETRN, UK

SUBJ: ROLLS-ROYCE ENGINES FOR BOEING 747

1. SENIOR DEPARTMENT OF INDUSTRY OFFICIALS INFORM US THAT UKG DECISION CAN BE EXPECTED SHORTLY ON FUNDING SUPPORT FOR UPGRADED ROLLS-ROYCE RB-211 ENGINE FOR USE ABOARD BOEING 747 AIRCRAFT. PRESUMABLY, UKG COMMITMENT FOR MODIFICATION OF 54,000-POUND THRUST RB-211-524, STILL UNDER DEVELOPMENT, FOR USE ON 747 AIRCRAFT WOULD MEAN THAT NEW 747 ORDERS WHICH BRITISH AIRWAYS IS EXPECTED TO PLACE BEFORE END OF YEAR WILL BE FOR ROLLS-POWERED MODELS.

2. OFFICIALS FROM PRATT AND WHITNEY, WHOSE ENGINES PRESENTLY POWER 747, HAVE BEEN ACTIVE IN PAST COUPLE OF MONTHS WITH BOTH BRITISH GOVERNMENT AND AIRLINE OFFICIALS TRYING TO HEAD OFF POSSIBILITY OF ROLLS-POWERED 747 BUT WOULD APPEAR AT THIS STAGE THAT THEY ARE FIGHTING A LOSING BATTLE.

3. PRATT AND WHITNEY OFFICIALS HAVE ASKED EMBASSY WHETHER THERE IS ANYTHING WE CAN DO ON OFFICIAL LEVEL TO INFLUENCE BRITISH POSITION. WE HAVE TOLD THEM DECISION IS BASICALLY A BRITISH INTERNAL MATTER WHICH WE CAN DO

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LITTLE ABOUT OTHER THAN EXPRESS OUR INTEREST TO APPRO-

PRIATE UK OFFICIALS IN HOW THEIR DECISION GOES BECAUSE
OF IMPACT IT WILL HAVE ON US AEROENGINE EXPORTS AND WE
HAVE ALREADY DONE THIS INFORMALLY. PRATT AND WHITNEY
OFFICIALS, HOWEVER, MAY DECIDE TO SEEK USG SUPPORT
THROUGH DEPARTMENT.

SOHM

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